

**Introduced by Senators Huff, Cogdill, Harman, and Strickland**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Conway, Gilmore, Harkey, Ma,  
Nestande, Niello, and Silva)

May 6, 2009

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43—Relative to California Water Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 43, as introduced, Huff. California Water Awareness Month.

This bill would proclaim May 2009 as California Water Awareness Month, and encourage all Californians to participate in a statewide campaign that focuses on educating Californians about the value of water in everyday life.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California's 37 million residents and its  
2 agricultural, industrial, commercial, and recreational industries  
3 rely on the availability of water to support beneficial uses of water;  
4 and  
5 WHEREAS, California's hydrologic and geographic diversity  
6 requires the implementation of multiple strategies to ensure  
7 adequate, timely supplies of water throughout the state; and  
8 WHEREAS, Snowpack in the northern Sierra Nevada has  
9 historically yielded 18.5 million acre-feet of California's average  
10 annual runoff that benefits riparian species and habitat, as well as  
11 the state's urban and agricultural users, and yet is a limited  
12 resource; and

1 WHEREAS, The Colorado River has historically supplied water  
2 to about 20 million water users throughout southern California,  
3 but provides uncertain reliability; and

4 WHEREAS, Groundwater reserves provide vital flexibility to  
5 water users throughout the state, and must be managed to maintain  
6 this flexibility; and

7 WHEREAS, The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a key  
8 natural estuary and the pathway through which more than 25  
9 million Californians and 2.5 million acres of productive farmland  
10 receive water, is in an ecological crisis that threatens people as  
11 well as the environment; and

12 WHEREAS, California is now in its third consecutive year of  
13 drought; and

14 WHEREAS, Much of California has a semiarid climate that  
15 provides limited precipitation even in wet years, and further urgent  
16 action is needed to address water shortages and to protect the  
17 people of, and property in, California; and

18 WHEREAS, The first step toward ensuring the availability of  
19 water is to understand from the sources from which it comes; and

20 WHEREAS, There are many simple actions each Californian  
21 can take to conserve water without an appreciable effect on their  
22 lives; and

23 WHEREAS, At least 22 local water agencies throughout the  
24 state have already implemented mandatory water conservation  
25 measures, and 61 local water agencies have implemented other  
26 water conservation programs or restrictions on water deliveries,  
27 with many agencies considering additional rationing and water  
28 supply reductions in 2009; and

29 WHEREAS, Many of California's water agencies have acted  
30 locally to diversify their water portfolios and to implement water  
31 conservation measures to ensure greater reliability of their supplies;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, The circumstances of the severe drought conditions,  
34 by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services,  
35 personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county or city  
36 and therefore require mutual and regional action; and

37 WHEREAS, The Governor has directed the Department of  
38 Water Resources, in partnership with other appropriate agencies,  
39 to launch a statewide water conservation campaign calling for all

1 Californians to immediately decrease their water use; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims May  
5 2009 as California Water Awareness Month, and encourages all  
6 Californians to participate in a statewide campaign that focuses  
7 on educating Californians about the value of water in everyday  
8 life; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
10 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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